

**Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center (RMRVAMC)
Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders (SCI/D) Center, Inpatient Unit
Individualized Written Disclosure Statement (IWDS)**

Welcome to the Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders inpatient unit. The following information will help you to know what to expect during your stay with us.

This information was discussed with you by: _____

Your rehabilitation diagnosis is: _____

You can expect to be an inpatient for approximately _____ weeks.

Your anticipated discharge date is: _____

- You will be participating in our acute rehabilitation program, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Integrated Inpatient Rehabilitation Program, or CIIRP (pronounced “chirp”). Our rehabilitation team works together with you and your family to set goals for your stay. You can expect to receive intensive therapy as an inpatient. Veterans in the CIIRP program receive approximately 3 hours of therapy per day, 5+ days per week. The type and frequency of the specific services you receive may change throughout your stay based on your goals and the team’s ongoing assessment of your needs. You, your family, and significant others will learn about how to manage your daily activities (for example, bathing, dressing) and participate fully in your daily life.
- A description of the SCI/D rehabilitation team members and information about SCI/D policies is available in the admission handout that will be provided to you separately.
- You will receive nursing care and services around the clock, including specialty wound care if needed.
- A nurse case manager or designee will meet with you weekly to discuss your goals, review your treatment plan, address discharge planning needs, and help answer questions you may have about your care. Your nurse case manager is:

_____ Erin Vollenweider, RN, CRRN

_____ Beth Lewis, RN

- A social worker will advocate for you and work with you to discuss your benefits, transportation, options for discharge locations (if other than your home), and other resources. Your social worker is:

_____ Weronika Dorman, LCSW

_____ Leeann Woodrum, LCSW

- A medical provider (physician/nurse practitioner) is available 24/7. Your medical care provider for this admission is:

_____ George Marzloff, MD

_____ Stephanie Ryder, MD

_____ Kelsey Darlington, MD

_____ Ben Lee, MD

_____ Scott Schubert, MD

_____ Dave Coons, MD

Often a resident physician is part of your medical team. Residents are doctors who have completed medical school and one year of clinical training in internal medicine or surgery, and are now training in the specialty of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. They are supervised by the providers above.

- The rehabilitation therapies you will receive are determined individually based on your medical and rehabilitation assessment. The frequency and intensity of your therapies will be determined based on your individual needs. The rehabilitation therapies we anticipate you will receive are:

_____ Physical Therapy _____ Occupational Therapy _____ Speech Therapy

Additional rehab team members who may work with you include Recreation Therapy, Psychology, Vocational Rehabilitation, Rehab Engineering, and Nutrition.

- Your schedule may vary from day to day based upon your individual needs and treatment plan.
- Medical, radiologic, respiratory therapy, pharmacy, and lab services are available 24/7 onsite, on an as-needed basis.
- Depending on your eligibility and needs, you may receive durable medical equipment such as a wheelchair, cane or walker.
- If at any time you feel you are not receiving appropriate care, you may immediately notify any member of your rehabilitation team.
- Fully understanding and communicating with your team is important. Translation services and assistive technology are available to help.
- Veterans who may be eligible for admission to the SCI/D inpatient unit are those who have:
 - Acute traumatic spinal cord injuries (SCI) due to events such as motor vehicle accidents, falls, and acts of violence
 - SCI due to non-traumatic causes such as vascular issues, tumors, stenosis or infections
 - Multiple sclerosis with primary spinal cord involvement
 - Motor Neuron Disease such as Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

For any of the above diagnoses, admission is considered for:

- New injury requiring acute/subacute rehabilitation
- Exacerbations of a previous injury/disorder requiring rehabilitation services (once the Veteran is medically stable)
- Wound management
- **Insurance Coverage:** By law, the VA is required to bill health insurance carriers for treatment provided to Veterans for non-service-connected conditions. This means the VA must bill any health insurance plan providing coverage for you, including policies held by your spouse. Eligibility for treatment on the SCI/D inpatient unit is not affected by your insurance coverage. The money the VA collects from health insurance companies and from your co-payments is returned to the local VA network to pay for programs for Veterans. Please note there are no billing staff members available at any VA facility. You can call VA

Health Resource Center (866) 393-1846 for questions regarding billing, co-pay exemptions, or payment options. For questions regarding non-VA billing, you can call the Network Authorization and Payment Center (888) 795-0073.

- Discharge Procedures: The rehabilitation treatment will work with you to identify treatment goals and to monitor your progress toward those goals. Your length of stay and discharge plan are part of the ongoing assessment performed by the rehab team and will be discussed with you weekly by the inpatient nurse case manager. To ensure a successful transition from the SCI/D inpatient unit at discharge, we will work with you to plan for your discharge starting from the beginning of your stay with us. If either in-home therapy or outpatient therapy is recommended to help you maintain your health following your discharge, we will help arrange it. Your nurse case manager or social worker will discuss this with you as your discharge date gets closer.
- Non-voluntary discharge may be initiated if a Veteran becomes medically unstable and must be transferred to another unit for acute medical care, if a Veteran is not participating fully in the rehabilitation process, or if behavioral issues arise that prevent a Veteran from benefitting from the inpatient rehabilitation environment. If a Veteran wishes to be discharged and this is felt to be medically unsafe, a discharge may be designated as "Against Medical Advice."
- Security of Personal Items: It is recommended that Veterans do not bring with them items of high personal or monetary value, as the security of those items cannot be guaranteed. If valuables are brought in and family is unable to take them home, staff can explain the process of safeguarding valuables, effects and cash as outlined in VA ECHCS policy 118-22.
- Notice of Privacy Practices: A Veteran receiving treatment has the right to receive a copy of the VHA Notice of Privacy Practices (NoPP), IB 10-163. All newly registered Veterans are mailed a Notice of Privacy Practices by the Health Eligibility Center (HEC). This notice includes the uses and disclosures of Protected Health Information (PHI) by VHA, as well as the Veteran's rights and VHA's legal responsibilities with respect to PHI. The VHA Privacy Office is responsible for updating the NoPP and ensuring Veterans are provided the NoPP every three years or when there is a significant change. You have the right to obtain an additional paper copy of this Notice from the facility Privacy Officer at your local VHA health care facility. You may also obtain a copy of this Notice at the following website: <http://www.va.gov/vhapublications>.
- Additional information about the SCI/D Center is contained in the welcome packet that you received at admission. Ask your nurse case manager if you need help locating this packet.